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**COMPAQ**

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May 22, 1998

The Honorable William E. Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Proposed Revision of Maximum Collection Amounts for Schools and  
Libraries and Rural Health Care Providers, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Kennard:

On behalf of Compaq Computer Corporation, I am writing to urge you to support the Commission's original conclusions about the Schools and Libraries Fund. To be effective, the Fund must include telecommunications services, Internet access services, and internal connections.

In accordance with provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Commission established the Schools and Libraries Fund last year to help in bringing the benefits of information technology and the Internet to all of America's children. The Internet and computer technology can add significant resources to the educational process by making available materials in electronic form that would be prohibitively expensive to access by physical means. The Schools and Libraries Fund will offer the opportunity to establish high bandwidth Internet access to schools that currently lack the funds for this important educational resource.

Since the creation of the Schools and Libraries Fund, many schools have invested a significant amount of time and scarce resources to prepare plans to utilize the Fund. In conjunction with companies like Compaq, they have been formulating specific plans to implement technology that will provide the best educational experience through the Internet for their students. These plans are meant to ensure that the Fund is used in the most efficient and educationally effective manner.

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Compaq, likewise, has invested significant resources in planning for the implementation of the Schools and Libraries Fund. In addition to helping schools formulate their own plans, Compaq has designed a special line of equipment for use by schools that provide for the particular needs of the educational market. Compaq's investment will help ensure that schools can obtain equipment that is most appropriate for their needs.

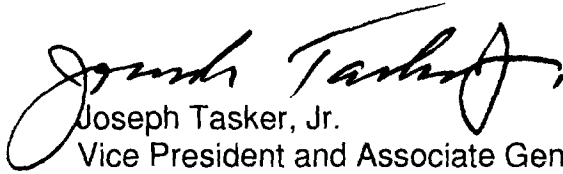
When the Commission established the Fund, it recognized that three elements are necessary in order to provide effective access to the Internet for educators: telecommunications service, Internet access service, and internal connections. It is critical that the Commission continue to include internal connections in the elements eligible for access to the Fund. Without the routers, hubs, and communications servers that make up the internal connections, the telecommunications and Internet access services provided by the Fund will not be used efficiently. Bringing the services to the outside walls of the schools alone does not make it available to students in the classroom. It is also necessary to connect and distribute the services throughout the school. Without the inclusion of internal connections in the Fund, the poor and rural schools will not be able to gain the benefit of the Fund because they will have the services *to* the schools but no way of using the services *within* the schools.

Because of the huge investment in both time and money that schools have made to prepare their plans for the Schools and Libraries Fund, it is important that the rules are not changed at the last minute. The schools' plans have relied on the inclusion of internal connections and it will be difficult, if not impossible, to properly implement the plans without the inclusion of internal connections in the Fund. The Commission's original conclusion remains correct. The Schools and Libraries Fund must include telecommunications services, Internet access services, and internal connections to be effective. Compaq strongly supports the Commission's efforts in establishing the Fund and ensuring that schools are able to access the Fund for their critical needs, including internal connections.

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Thank you for your consideration and commitment to an effective  
communications infrastructure for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Tasker, Jr.", with a large, stylized initial "J".

Joseph Tasker, Jr.  
Vice President and Associate General Counsel  
Federal Government Affairs

cc: The Honorable Susan Ness  
The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
The Honorable Gloria Tristani  
The Honorable Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth  
Ms. Magalie Roman Salas